



County of Placer  
**Fish and Game Commission**

11477 E Avenue ▪ Auburn, CA 95603 ▪ (530) 889-7372

District 1 – Don Gould  
District 2 – Mark Fowler  
District 3 – Jim Victorine

District 5 – Kari Freidig  
District 5 – Mickey Daniels  
District 5 – Scott Husmann

District 4 – Gary Flanagan

**MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 27, 2018, 6:00 P.M.  
Placer County Planning Commission Hearing Room  
3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA  
County Contact: Ed King

1. **Call to Order** – Mark Fowler called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. **Roll Call – Present:** Don Gould, Mark Fowler, Jim Victorine, Gary Flanagan, Kari Freidig, Scott Husmann, Mickey Daniels

**Members of the Public Present:** Robert Hane (SARSAS), Jim Mayfield (SARSAS), William Wauters (SARSAS/Friends of Bear River), Jack Sanchez (SARSAS), Tom McPherson, Diana Suarez Marilyn Jasper.

3. **Approval of June 27, 2018 Agenda & April 25 and May 23, 2018 Minutes**  
The June 27 agenda was motioned for approval by Flanagan, seconded by Gould and MPUV. Approval of the April 25 and May 23 minutes was motioned by Freidig, seconded by Husmann and MPUV.
4. **Public Comment:** Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Game Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. **No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment.**

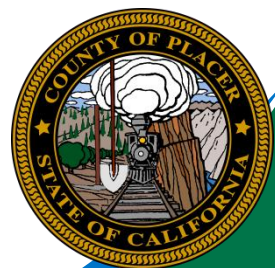
William Wauters spoke on the Auburn State Recreation Area Master Plan and the positive responsiveness of California State Parks. He also spoke about NID and the issues with their water flow priorities related lawsuits.

Diana Suarez spoke about NID and Bear River restoration and stewardship needs. She cited the fishing access clause that indicates that 'right' is in perpetuity and constructing a dam (Centennial Dam) in this area would be violating this access.

Tom McPherson spoke about his concerns regarding Auburn Ravine and the viability of fishing this stream with good stewardship and improved flows.

Robert Hane spoke in regards to NID and the Hemphill and Gold Hill Dam removals. The dams violate Fish and Game codes by preventing the migration of fish to spawning areas. He wants to work to remove these dams and restore steelhead habitat.

Jack Sanchez spoke about CDFWs notice of violation to NID regarding



Hemphill Dam and his desire for the district attorney to take action on the matter. NID is in violation of State Fish and Wildlife statute and has not rectified the situation even though they have received money from the State to do so. He brought up the upcoming election and encouraged voting for the qualified contenders running for the NID Board (Laura Peters, Bruce Herring and Ricki Heck).

**5. Financial Report**

Operational expenditures through May totaled \$4,740.

Court fines and penalty assessments through May totaled \$439.

**6. Agency Reports**

**A. Commissioner Reports:** Gary reported on his work with CDFWs Fishing in the City program. Richard Munoz with CDFW and Kahl Muscott of ARD have agreed to start planting at Auburn Regional Park in October with catchable catfish and will follow with trout plantings during winter months.

Gary also reported on his two and a half year project working on fish entrainment problems in Auburn Ravine in cooperation with Damion Ciotti of USFWS. CDFW has determined that the biggest problem is out-migration of baby fish being trapped in altered flood plains and irrigation canals. One particular problematic location is at Hwy 193 and McBean Park downstream to Lincoln Park. This area was manipulated in 1986 as a vernal pool mitigation property for the Twelve Bridges development. Mitigation actions intended to enhance the area allow flood waters to move into the flood plain, but not return to Auburn Ravine, trapping downstream migrating fish as a result. Lincoln City is having meetings to look at this project to remove portions of the levee to allow more storage and flood control and eliminate the fish entrainments problems. Proposal will be presented on August 9<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln City Council meeting.

**B. State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee:** Mark Fowler reported:

- 1) The Commission adopted the Department of Fish and Wildlife's recommendation to issue zero sage grouse hunting permits for all four hunting zones.
- 2) A Minnesota artist won the 2018-2019 California Duck Stamp Art contest. Mark Thone painted five black brants flying over an estuary.
- 3) CDFW SHARE program offering 31 additional elk hunts; currently accepting applications, hunts will be from August 15 through December 24.
- 4) Succulent plant poachers were prosecuted in Humboldt County: 3 defendants pled guilty to two felonies and other misdemeanor charges. The plants are called Dudleyas, they grow in niches close to the coastline. Some species are rare or at risk of extinction. The poachers were selling the plants to Korea and China. The fines were \$10,200 each.
- 5) Free fishing days are planned for July 7<sup>th</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>; no license will be needed but all other regulations apply.

- 6) The Bat Walk and Talk Tour at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area continues through September. A 45 minute indoor presentation and drive to a viewing area to see a spectacular aerial performance of Mexican Free-tailed bats is offered.

**C. Land Use Subcommittee:** Scott Husmann, Don Gould – Scott reported on 5 permit applications: 5 building commercial building development on Locksley Lane; Lincoln area 12 acre parcel split; ARCO station on Nevada Street, LDS permit for minor land subdivision of 285 acres in Camp Far West area; and the Brady Vineyard - 124 single-family units on 35 acres: there is a stream running through this project site, so there may be concerns with up and downstream effects. Wetland mitigation will be offsite.

**D. Department of Fish & Wildlife:** Lt. Brian Moore reported on the previous month's slow activity: less fishing occurring now, bear cubs are still active, some hit by vehicles. John Lawson is the new Captain, starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**E. Nevada Irrigation District and Placer County Water Agency**

**NID:** As of June 20, storage = 257, 300 AF; 95% of capacity; 116% of average for this date. Precipitation at Bowman ended the year at 69.13" very near the 69.20" average. Runoff has been about 75% of average. Withdrawal from storage started a little earlier than average due to the reduced runoff, but not expected to impact carry over storage to significantly.

**PCWA:** no report this month

**7. Informational Item**

**Crystal Jacobsen, Placer County Principal Planner** – Overview of the Sunset Area Plan and Placer Ranch Specific Plan including provisions to designate natural resource reserves to protect fish and wildlife.

Sunset Industrial Plan (adopted in 1997) – as shown in slide presentation. Updating the existing policy plan via direction from BOS – to promote economic development and job growth. This is a County policy document. Placer Ranch is a specific plan developed to include a public university and job creation. The Administrative Draft EIR is being developed, 2018 with the public draft due in the fall of 2018.

Emily Setzer, Associate Planner, Placer County – Placer Ranch Specific Plan. This is a more specific development proposal and will be part of the same EIR. Final EIR is scheduled for the Spring of 2019; Placer County BOS hearings should be in the Spring of 2019. There is talk about extending the review period to 60 days from 45 days because of the overlap with the PCCP review period. Ascent Environmental is doing the biological review.

Michelle Kingsbury from the County Executive office spoke on trails connecting to other areas, open space areas that are related to the PCCP and 'yellow' areas for wildlife protection. There is concern about these wildlife routes – especially under or over Placer Parkway.

Questions:

- 1) Jack Sanchez asked where are the mitigation lands going to be? PCCP lands will be accounted for in meeting mitigation requirements.
- 2) Marilyn Jasper questioned about working with the climate change groups and development of the Placer County Sustainability Plan (greenhouse gas plan). Yes, all departments are working together.
- 3) Is the County or Caltrans paying for Placer Parkway? Financing plan in place that Placer County is administering.
- 4) Placer Ranch – Placer County is both the applicant and the lead agency – is this a conflict of interest? No, they are not an applicant for Placer Ranch – they are preparing a development agreement with property owners and revising the master plan with the university and town center areas.
- 5) Who is paying for the EIR? Will the developers how pay for the EIRs? Yes, the County will be reimbursed by developers.

**8. Action Item**

Consider sending a recommendation letter to the Board of Supervisors advising an extension of the proposed Sunset Area Plan and Placer Ranch Specific Plan environmental impact report comment period to permit adequate time to review potential fish and wildlife concerns.

Kari presented a list of threatened or endangered species that along with other birds that are using this area and the Pacific flyway. There are vernal pools in the area identified by CDFW and tributaries that feed Auburn Ravine – and this will impact salmon and steelhead migration. The public does not have professionals to help review the EIR – therefore it seems logical that the time should be extended for the review. She lists stakeholders: Sierra Club, Placer 360, etc.

Don questioned the downside to extending the comment period. Answer: County schedule will be impacted.

Scott asked if a significant number of comments are received what refinements will be made. Answer: There will be modifications as directed by the Planning Commission or BOS.

Gary – suggested recommending an extension to the comment period, but not defining the length of the extension. Kari commented that the non-profits need more time because of lack of staffing and money.

Mark – stated that thinks it is important to focus on the commission's role as a fish and wildlife advisory body to the BOS but it is uncertain at this time if a lengthy extension is necessary to review potential fish and wildlife impacts.

Scott asked how the public may request an EIR comment period extension. Crystal answered that the public can make a direct request to the BOS or act through a MAC.

Mickey – supportive of Gary's suggestion to consider an extension, but not request a specific extension period.

Motion: Kari motioned to advise the BOS to extend the Sunset Area Plan and Placer Ranch Specific Plan EIR public comment period to 120 days. Don seconded. Mark recused himself as he is on the Wildlife Heritage Board and feels it would be a conflict of interest. Daniels and Flanagan voted no. All others voted yes. Motion passed (4 in favor, 2 oppose, 1 abstain).

Kari presented a prepared letter to the BOS regarding the requested extension; Ed pointed out that the voting action of the commission should be indicated in the letter before being sent. Gary moved to approve the letter as amended, Don seconded, MPUV.

**9. Action Item**

2018-19 Commission Officer Nominations: Kari nominated Gary as chairman, Don seconded Gary nominated Mickey as vice chair, Mark seconded. Voting will be at the next meeting. Scott Husmann is not seeking re-appointment due to other commitments. This is his last meeting.

**10. Adjournment – 8:12 pm**

Next meeting July 25<sup>th</sup>. Don is scheduled to procure the speaker.